

✓ **CLAIMS:** Cancel claims 3. and 4. and 5. and 6. and substitute Claims 7. and 8. and 9. (the substitute claims are mostly the same as before but attempt to comply with the points specified in the O.A.'s (8/1/2002) DETAILED ACTION) :

7. A back-up mirror system to improve safety when driving a passenger vehicle in reverse into a lane or lanes of cross-traffic which lanes pass transversely behind said vehicle, comprising:

- b1
- (a) a passenger vehicle, including a driver's seat, a passenger compartment, and a second seating row's seatbacks, and
 - (b) a rear-view mirror physically positioned with mounting means inside said passenger compartment in a region generally in front of said driver's seat row, said rear-view mirror's reflecting surface generally aimed horizontally and aimed generally toward the aft of said vehicle, and
 - (c) a back-up mirror physically positioned with mounting means inside said passenger compartment in a region slightly aft of or even with said vehicle's second seating row's seatbacks, said back-up mirror's reflecting surface generally aimed horizontally and generally aimed towards a side of said vehicle, and
 - (d) a physical region defined as lying in a lane of oncoming cross-traffic passing behind said vehicle's rear-end, said physical region also lying nearby to a side of said vehicle,
- all whose relative physical positions and reflecting relationships form a physical structure wherein an image of said physical region of oncoming cross-traffic arrives at said driver's seat region via said rear-view mirror's image of said back-up mirror's image,

whereby a driver sees a view of said physical region of oncoming cross-traffic lane and any oncoming cross-traffic objects it may contain, which information is needed at the moment of deciding the safety of driving said vehicle in reverse into said lane or lanes of cross-traffic.

8. A back-up mirror method whereby a seated driver of a passenger vehicle makes use of a back-up mirror system of claim 7 comprising the steps of:

- BI
enc
- (a) turning a driver's face and eyes to be looking generally aft and
 - (b) viewing an image of a physical region lying in a lane of oncoming cross-traffic passing behind said vehicle's rear-end, said physical region also nearby to a side of said vehicle, said image arriving directly at said driver's eyes via a reflection from said back-up mirror of said back-up mirror system of claim 7,

whereby said driver sees a view of nearby oncoming cross-traffic objects, which information is needed at the moment of deciding the safety of driving in reverse into said lane or lanes of cross-traffic, especially when a direct view of said oncoming objects is blocked by opaque objects outside said passenger vehicle.

9. The back-up mirror system of claim 7 wherein said back-up mirror mounting location is against a generally vertical surface on a left side or on a right side of said passenger compartment which generally vertical surface also lies aft of an opening for a side-facing second row's window but lies substantially forward of the vehicle's rear end.
